

Water Sector

Water Sector Description

Water Sector Participating Agencies

- Department of Water Resources
- California Energy Commission
- California Public Utilities Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Air Resources Board

Water Sector Achievements / Actions for 2020

- Water Use Efficiency
- Increased use of Recycled Water
- Water System Energy Efficiency
- Stormwater Capture and Reuse
- Increase Renewable Energy Production in the Water Sector
- Funding (Public Goods Charge)

These strategies have a collective goal of reducing GHG emissions by 4.8 MMCO₂E by 2020, which is 6% of the 80 MMCO₂E remaining to meet the statewide 2020 goal.

Water Sector Vision for 2050

- Full utilization of local and low-carbon water supplies
- Maintain and improve water quality
- Increase conservation and reuse through recycling, rainwater and stormwater capture, water-efficient landscaping, highly efficient irrigation systems
- Widespread use of wastewater as a resource for energy production and environmental protection

Water Sector Potential Actions for 2050 Goal

- Funding programs that capture multiple benefits, including energy efficiency, water quality, and water supply.
- Improved data collection and dissemination, leading to more regionally targeted conservation and efficiency goals and standards.
- Sustained increases in water conservation and energy efficiency
- Additional use of wastewater for energy production
- Increasing use of recycled water, stormwater, and greywater
- New business models that allow for robust conservation while keeping rates affordable for low-use and low-income consumers

Water Sector Challenges

- Conflicting goals and missions
 - Water supply reliability vs. conservation and low-energy supplies, for example.
 - Increasing water conservation vs. maintaining agency financial health is another example.
- Lack of data-driven standards and incentives to achieve additional water conservation and energy efficiency gains.
 - Artificially low water prices in certain areas that impede additional conservation and allow for unsustainable land use

Water Sector Questions/Comments